STANDARD FORM NO. 64

TOP SECRET

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Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
FEB 26 1951
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

TO : The Files

FROM : EE - Mr. Salter

DATE: June 15, 1950

SUBJECT: Latvian Underground Activities

RECD JUN 21 PM 3:56

The attached data was handed to me by [redacted] on June 15, with the request that it be circulated to the interested officers of the Departments of State and Defense and to any other governmental Departments that might be interested. [redacted] the material was received by him in secret code a few days ago and represented information obtained by Latvian underground operators who recently reached Latvia from Sweden. The operators are still in Latvia, he said, and will probably forward more information later. If so, [redacted] will let the Department have it.

When he left the attached material [redacted] stated the underground operators had said they urgently needed help in the form of medicines and funds. [redacted] did not elaborate further on this at the time, merely asking that I report that fact.

The attached data should be circulated, among others, to R - Mr. Armstrong, to IAD - Mr. Carroll (for Defense), and also to S/P for Mr. Joyce's attention. After it has been studied and evaluated I think [redacted] the matter discussed with him in more detail. It seems to me that this may be a good opportunity to obtain some first hand information from the Baltic area.

Fred K. Salter

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REVIEWED BY W Gehman DATE 9/1/83
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/1/ New USSR army detachments are arriving in Kurzeme and Zemgale, mainly infantry, artillery and tank formations. The arrival is carried out according to a certain plan - soldiers, arms and tanks are brought in by train every week during the night.

/2/ In Kurzeme coastal artillery and naval force is being reinforced and the building of coastal fortifications still continues. In Liepaja and Ventspils the MGB follows every step of each newcomer. Civilian traffic in the harbor and navy yeard is prohibited.

/3/ All over the LX 2 territory the Russians are building large fuel tanks. Thus, in Sece, near the former church estate, at the present MTS in Daudzeva, near the estate of Daudzeva, Nereta and Lielzalve MTS large gasoline reservoirs have been built - some 4 meters high and 3 meters in diameter, painted and camouflaged, although still well visible. It seems that the Russians are building large fuel supplies at MTS for the needs of war.

/4/ Russification still continues. In the schools the new all-Russian idea is being implanted and anti-religious propaganda spread. The sole change is that the Russians have started to pay more attention to the qualifications of communist employees and teachers.

/5/ The Russians have started to persecute relentlessly all Latvians who still occupy more or less significant posts, replacing them with the agents from Russia or subjecting them to a continuous controle. Since MGB the expansion of the MGB network still continues, the Latvians became very cautious. The MGB has a well established intelligence service and it is difficult to avoid it, even by changing one's address or leaving town. Employees are often discharged for having had some correspondence with foreign countries, sometimes even for a single exchange of letters.

/6/ There exists a chortage of seeds. Kolkhozes are managed predominantly by the Russians. A great unrest has been observed among the Latvian rural population.

/7/ Between April 5-30 the kolkhozes had to deliver gravel and sand for the repair of roads. In order not to delay the regular farmwork, people had to work even on Sundays, also while repairing the bridge of Iecava /Jelgava-Krustpils/.

/8/ RM. The food problem is hard to solve as the main line of communication is the sea.

/9/ Because of the influx of Russian soldiers, lately there was noticed a shortage of living space. Often 2-3 families must live together. The MGB always tries to quarter Russian families among the Latvians.

/10/ Lately all Russian garrisons were reinforced, especially those near munitions, fuel and food storages, where it was doubled.

/11/ Russian artillery brigades as well as quartermasters still employ horses for transportation. In quartermasters units one sees mainly Asiatic people and elderly Russian soldiers, that had not been demobilized. The quality of food in the Russian army is poor. Main dishes are potatoes and various porridges. Uniforms are often shabby and soiled, and only the officers are dressed better.

/12/ It seems that the Russians have reinforced their airforce units in the airfields near Riga. Often one sees airplane formations over Riga railroad station heading northwest.

/13/ Between April 7-9 a Finnish vessel arrived in Riga. It was impossible to approach it. The harbor swarms with MGB agents. It is likewise impossible to board any of the very few foreign ships that still call on Riga or cross the Baltic Sea. The Russians check those ships even when they already are at open sea, heading to some foreign port.

/14/ Lt. G. 6 and corporal M /Picus/ are on their way to you via LX 1 /AK/ etc. They have pictures with them. The last news about them we had through LX 1. Please report "C" 15 and do not hesitate taking any chances and send a courrier to us. We need medical supplies and money.